INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

C. 7. Ghana Volta R

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Action

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FROM: Bamako

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 325, October 10, 6 pm

ACTION DEPARTMENT 325, INFORMATION ACCRA 42

Ref: DEPCIRTEL 644

We believe immediate reaction GOM our decision not go through with Volta River project might be public denunciation our decision as "neo-colonialist" attempt employ "economic blackmail" to force Ghana out of "non-aligned" camp and into position of "subservience" to western powers.

In cable October 5, Modibo Keita assured Nkrumah Mali solidarity with Ghanaian efforts cope "imperialist plots" and "subversion". Bocoum UNGA speech October 4 reiterated Mali position economic aid must have no political conditions. These two themes would no doubt dominate GOM pronouncements.

We believe GOM would urge Ghana reject development aid regardless economic disadvantage if this aid conditional on Ghana's adopting foreign policy positions less hostile to West. Modibo Keita clearly indicated August 20 speech Mali prepared sacrifice western aid in interests "anti-colonial" foreign policy.

Private Malian reaction our abandonment Volta project would probably be increasing realization governments like Malis and Ghanas cannot go on enjoying best of both worlds, i.e., alignment with communists on cold war issues and receipt of large-scale free world aid. Conversely your following

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following through on Volta project now with no change in Ghanaian attitudes would be taken as evidence we are not only prepared help those who harm us but will in fact give most grease to squeaking wheels.

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